Steps taken by Government to obtain the Goal *ci* Nuclear Free World

243. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the Government's response *to* the Soviet declaration of imposing cuts in nuclear weapons and installation, not only to match with the US-cuts but outdo the same by far; and

lb) what further steps are contemplated by Government to pursuade the big powers to wholly give up nuclear weapons, further nuclear tests and to obtain the goal of nuclear weapon free world; set out by the former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN TEE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FA-LEIRO): (a) The Government has welcomed the comprehensive Soviet response to the announcement by USA of unilateral measures and proposals on nuclear disarmament,

(b) The Government has called for far-reaching, deeper and quicker measures for nuclear arms reduction not only by US and USSR, but also by other nuclear weapon States so that the objective of a nuclear wea pon free world envisaged in the Ac tion Plan proposed by India could be realised in not too distant a future.

U.S. plea regarding Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

244. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI BEKAL. UTSAHI:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during his recent visit to USA, the U.S. Government impressed on him to reconsider India's stand on the question of signing the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty in the Light of French and Chinese Governments posture to consider signing the Treaty;

(b) if so, in what precise terms the U.S. plea was made; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FA-LEIRO): (a) and (b) During EAM's recent visit to New York in connection with the United Nations General Assembly, he had a meeting with the US Secretary of State Mr. James Baker at which they discussed a wide range of bilateral and multilateral issues including the question of Nuclear Non-proliferation.

(c) The Government has declined to sign the NPT because of its discriminatory provisions.

245. *[Transferred to 29th Novem ber,* 1991]

Visit of Chinese Premier

246. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chinese Premier, Li Peng is going to visit India during the, .month of December, 1991; and